technical, financial and administrative support. It will also undertake training, evaluation and monitoring for proper utilisation of funds by the NGOs.

(c) As a result of increasing demand from the voluntary agencies and NGOs, the question of setting up anindependent organisation outside the Go vernment is being pursued.

Its expenditure on establishment will not be high but very limited. The existing voluntary organisations are being used as mother units wherever possible but they have a limited reach. There is at present no organisation dealing with Family Welfare which has an all India coverage.

Qualifications for appointment of Food Inspectors

356'. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of Health and Family Welfare be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 542 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th November, 1991 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that CCFS from time to time has recommended other technical qualifications also for the appointment of Food Inspectors which are equally important to curb the social evil of food adulteration ;

(b) whether the recommendations as at (v) above from different educational fields is due to that the technocrates from each such different technical educational fields may use their individual technical skills in coordination with each other to curb tie social evil of food adulteration ; and

(c) if so, whether it is not neces sary to attract and retain technocrates from each of such different technical educational fields as Food Inspectors in the interest of Public Healih ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI-MATi D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Persons possessing any of the qualifications prescribed under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 may be appointed as Food Insp3ctors.

Blindness by cataract

3566. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that millions of people in the country are blinded by cataract ;

(b) whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard ;

(c) if so, he number of people are there in the country at present who are blinded by cataract ;

(d) whether Government are aware that most such people can regain vision by cataract surgery ; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per WHO-NPCB (National Programme for Control of Blindness) Sarvey 1986-89, there are 18.4656 million cataract blinded cases in the country as per 1981 census.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) (1) The Government of India launched a National Programme for Control of Blindness in the year 1976 which is an ongoing programme in which eye care services are being developed in the peripheral sector